



Welcome to the Clark County Community Development e-News. We send this publication out once a month to announce the latest in what's happening. We will attempt to cover a broad range of topics that we hope will be of interest to you. We need your input! We welcome your comments about our news bulletin; and if you have topics you would like us to cover and we haven't, we'll do our best to accommodate you!★

Fast Lane Permitting

The Community Development Department just finished processing two test cases under its **Fast Lane Permitting** program, which makes it possible for staff to review preliminary plans and final construction plans at the same time. Suggested by the Columbia River Economic Development Council, the program serves applicants proposing major economic development projects that create or retain primary or family wage jobs. [Click here](#) for the rest of the article.★

Will Clark County ever accept credit cards?

Ever wished you could pay for your building permit with your credit card? Ever considered how many frequent flier miles you could get out of all those impact fees attached to a permit? Well, right now Clark County is moving toward the idea of accepting credit cards for payment. [Click here](#) for the rest of the article.★



How to survive the "big one"

We live in the "Ring of Fire," the boundaries of the Pacific Ocean tectonic plates and continental tectonic plates. Recent events in South East Asia, specifically the December 26 Tsunami, Mt. St. Helens "explosive event" on March 8, as well as the recent earthquakes in the Cascadia Subduction Zone off the coast of Oregon and Washington help to remind us of that. The question then becomes, "What do I do in an earthquake? How do I survive the big one?"

The Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC) reports that the most effective way to protect yourself in the event of an earthquake is the "drop, cover and hold on to protection" approach. Get under the nearest desk or other heavy object and hang on. Running outside will only expose you to major crushing hazards and downed power lines.

The drop, cover and hold on to protection approach has been developed to protect occupants from falling hazards. As SEAOC states, the greatest danger to the U.S. population in the event of an earthquake is injury from falling hazards such as bookshelves, chimneys, ceilings and window glass; not overall collapse.

For more information, go to the [Federal Emergency Management Agency's Web site](#) and the [State of California Office of Emergency Service's Web site](#). ★

March 2005 Inside:

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- ★ Will Clark county ever Accept credit cards?
- ★ How to survive the "big one"
- ★ 2004 Accomplishments
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2004 Accomplishments

Programs and Policy Initiatives:

- Completed work on the 20-year comprehensive plan process, including several county ordinance amendments and studies. This has been a five year effort and included:
 - Environmental Impact Statement.
 - 20-Year Capital Facilities Plan.
 - Completing an "Economic Development Chapter."
 - Completing an "Environmental Chapter."
 - New zoning requirements for Business Park, Urban Holding and Mixed Use zoning districts.
 - Completing the Subarea Plan for Section 30
- Created the advisory board for the county's "Economic Development Fund."
- Beta tested the 90-day *Fast Lane* permitting program on two projects.
- Completed another Community Pride Design Award program. This year we did a joint program with Business Industry Association of Clark County.
- Received an award from FEMA for flood plain insurance program that cut insurance rates to county citizens by 15%.
- Improved the records management for animal licensing by transferring from old PetBase data base to Advantage/Permit Plan.
- Moved the Animal Control office from the Hazel Dell Sewer District to the Public Service Building improving service to our customers, our employees, and saving lease costs.
- Merged Animal Control and Code

Enforcement into one division.

- Adopted Home Business Ordinance.
- Established a county annexation team to coordinate with cities.
- Participated in the Cowlitz Tribe gaming casino agreement.

Process Improvements:

- Completed streamlining of the Final Plat and Site Plan Review processes.
- Continued handing out customer service evaluation forms. Our report card grade put us at a "B" for the year.
- Conducted a series of outreach meetings with local engineers about process improvements.
- Linked the Advantage (a.k.a., Tide-mark) computer permitting program to the GIS program.
- Utilized case management process for Legacy Hospital.
- Reorganized site inspection group and hired a new Construction Manager.
- Continued bi-annual code amendment process.

Intergovernmental Coordination:

- Worked with CREDC on several industrial prospects interested in relocating here including Dollar Tree.
- Participated in the Financial Management System II Steering Committee.
- Worked with the board and Sheriff's Office on the Level 3 Sexual Offender location program.
- Worked with Sheriff's Office on the noise and alarm permit ordinances which was adopted by the Board.
- Worked with Sheriff's Office and



Quick Clicks

- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Data Library
- Team Focus
- Department Calendar

Divisions

- Animal Control
- Building Division
- Code Enforcement
- Permit Center
- Development Services
- Engineering Services
- Fire Marshal's Office
- Long Range Planning

Prosecuting Attorneys on the case of an 8-year old boy killed by two dogs.

- Worked with Sheriff's Office on the dog fighting investigation.
- Fire Marshal worked with various agencies, including Homeland Security, regarding the cell tower arsons.
- Continued working with Public Works, Sheriff's Office and General Services regarding the amphitheater's operation.
- Worked successfully with the Budget Office to take General Fund cuts.
- Successfully closed our State Auditor review.

Community Relations/Negotiation:

- Involved in negotiations for a number of high profile development projects including: Hazel Dell Towne Center, Clark County Amphitheater, Costco, Legacy Hospital, East County Recycling Center.
- Involved in resolving neighborhood complaints related to projects like Basin 12 A, Hoffman Heights and the Clark County Amphitheater.

Organization:

- Updated the department's Strategic Plan.
- Revamped the Community Development University (CDU) program.
- Responded to 120,000 phone calls (97% within 24 hours),
- Conducted 86,638 inspections,
- Conducted 12,756 investigations
- Reviewed \$533 million in new building construction.★

Finishing 1st in Erosion Control

Environmental Connection 2005, hosted by the International Erosion Control Association, was held in Dallas, Texas on February 21-25. With 2,000 attendees from 28 countries, the conference was a resounding success. Not to be left stuck in the mud, Clark County was represented by Forest Shuler of the Engineering Services Division and Alex Zimmerman of CSI Geosynthetics. The conference provided valuable information on construction site erosion control design and inspection as well as SWPPP Evaluation and River Restoration.

As a team Forest and Alex competed in the Hydrodeo, taking first place in "Wattle Dodging" and the "Hydro Joust". With the highest cumulative point totals the "Mud Busters" were declared the Hydro Wranglers of the Year!

Awarded beautiful belt buckles and western rodeo shirts, Clark County's Inspector - Contractor team finished true to their mantra and "got the job done right the first time with the best time".★

Getting there from here

Ever wonder why some streets go somewhere and others don't? Ever wonder why sometimes you feel like you can't get there from here? What keeps you from getting hopelessly lost in a maze of subdivisions is good circulation planning.

Our roadway system is organized by a classification system, which identifies streets by their expected role in the transportation system. Arterials, wide roadways with many lanes, carry traffic over long distances at rela-

What's On TV Tonight?

There is a lot on CVTV (channel 23) about Community Development. For example, you can watch the animal control, land use, and code enforcement hearings, as well as the county's Planning Commission. To see the complete schedule click here: www.cvtv.org ★

Expanding our audience

Do you know others who would benefit from this information? Any list serves that would be appropriate for us to post this on? On the other hand, if you would like to be taken off our e-mailing list, just let us know. Contact Désirée at desiree.demoneye@clark.wa.gov.★

tively high speeds with few interruptions. The streets that act as “go-betweens” and connect arterials to neighborhoods are called collectors. Any county roadway not classified as an arterial or a collector is a local access street.

Why do we prepare circulation plans? A well-planned network of streets helps keep our major roadways from being clogged with signals, driveways and vehicular accidents. Having an adopted circulation plan provides greater certainty for neighborhoods, applicants, and staff regarding which streets will “go through” with development of an area.

Clark County has adopted local circulation plans in three areas of the county – West Felida (north and west of NW 36th Avenue and NW 119th Street), NE 88th Street (between NE St. John’s and NW Andresen Road) and Meadow Glade East (east of State Route 503 in the vicinity of NE 189th Street).

Long Range Planning, as part of its work program, expects to complete 2 - 4 local circulation plans per year depending on the geographic extent of the study area. Staff will be discussing two circulation planning areas with the Board of County Commissioners on March 30.★

Moving on up!

Jon Dunaway has been promoted to Fire Marshal. Prior to accepting his new position, Jon served as Senior Deputy Fire Marshal for nearly



Jon Dunaway

13 years. Congratulations Jon!



Susie Davidson

Susie Davidson has been promoted to planner I in the Customer Service Division. Susie had previously held a community development specialist position for 14 years. Well done Susie!

Vicki Kirsher, formerly a planner I with Customer Service, has accepted a planning technician position with Development Services. Welcome to the 3rd floor Vicki.★



Vicki Kirsher

New Faces

Jim Muir has accepted the position of Chief Building Official. He began work on March 21. Jim was the building official for Washington County, Oregon, where he managed a staff of 66. Jim worked his way up in Washington County, from building inspector, to plans examiner and then to building supervisor. He also has some 10 years experience as a private sector building contractor. Jim is very active with the Building Industry Association and has a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix.



Jim Muir

Jim is committed to customer service, the continuous improvement of our processes, and to providing staff with ongoing training. In his former position, he set up some unique building and public outreach programs.

David Faulkner has accepted an inspector position in our Building Division. David has worked for the last nine years as a builder with Riverside Homes. He is looking forward to experiencing the other side of the industry as an inspector.



David Faulkner

When not working, David enjoys spending time with his family. David also enjoys golfing, fly-fishing, snow boarding, and riding motorcycles.

Tonya Brownlie has accepted an OAIL position in Customer Service. Tonya may look familiar to some of you - she has been a temporary employee with Community Development since November of 2004. Prior to joining Clark County, Tonya spent seven years with Franklin Templeton Investments working her way up from the phone center to the vendor management group. Tonya also has five years of experience with Bank of America as a financial services representative.



Tonya Brownlie

Outside of work, Tonya enjoys camping and spending time with her family. ★

ComDev in the News

"Traffic snarls Salmon Creek development" The Columbian 3-1-05

http://www.columbian.com/03012005/front_pa/249549.cfm

"Up A Creek" The Columbian 2-21-05

http://www.columbian.com/02212005/front_pa/246414.cfm

"No spike in crime in areas of clinics" The Columbian 3-18-05

http://www.columbian.com/03182005/front_pa/255869.cfm

"Crows turns out to protest methadone clinic" The Columbian 3-20-05

http://www.columbian.com/03202005/front_pa/256205.cfm ★